

Message Text

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TAGS:TPHY, OSCI, TBIO, IN

SUBJECT: DHEW/PHS/NIH - INDIA FIC 145, "EVALUATION OF
VITAMIN E NUTRITION IN INDIA"

PASS TO SCIATT CLIFTON METZNER

1. DR. JOHN G. BIERI, CHIEF, NUTRITIONAL BIOCHEMISTRY
SECTION, LNE, NIAMDD, DISCUSSED PROPOSED SUBJECT STUDY WITH
DR. GOPALAN, DG/ICMR, DURING VISIT TO NIH IN FALL 1974.
BIERI SUBSEQUENTLY CONFIRMED DISCUSSION IN LETTER TO GO-
PALAN, AND DURING 1975 NUTRITION CONGRESS IN JAPAN ALSO
DISCUSSED PROPOSAL WITH GOPALAN AND INDIAN SCIENTIST WHOM
GOPALAN DESIGNATED AS INDIAN COLLABORATOR. ON ALL
OCCASIONS GOPALAN EXPRESSED SERIOUS INTEREST BUT HAS NEVER
GIVEN RESPONSE IN WRITING. NO FORMAL PROPOSAL WAS PRE-
PARED. SUMMARY DISCUSSIONS AND PLANS FOLLOW.

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PAGE 02 STATE 000371

2. EVIDENCE THAT INADEQUATE VITAMIN E NUTRITION MAY BE
SIGNIFICANT REGIONAL PROBLEM IN INDIA WAS PROVIDED FROM
STUDY BY BIERI IN DACCA IN 1965 IN WHICH HIGH INCIDENCE
OF RELATIVELY LOW PLASMA VITAMIN E LEVELS WERE FOUND.

3. THE RATIONALE FOR SUBJECT STUDY IS BASED ON SEVERAL

WELL DOCUMENTED ROLES OF VITAMIN E IN HUMAN AND ANIMAL

NUTRITION WHICH ARE ESPECIALLY PERTINENT TO PUBLIC HEALTH CONDITIONS IN INDIA: (1) VITAMIN E STATUS SIGNIFICANTLY AFFECTS VITAMIN A NUTRITURE, PARTICULARLY THE EFFICIENCY OF UTILIZATION OF PRO-VITAMIN A CAROTENOIDS; (2) VITAMIN E STATUS AFFECTS PROTEIN UTILIZATION, PARTICULARLY OF POOR QUALITY PROTEINS; (3) VITAMIN E STATUS AFFECTS THE DEGREE OF HEMOLYTIC ANEMIA IN LOW-BIRTH-WEIGHT INFANTS.

4. INITIAL STAGES OF THE PROJECT WOULD INCLUDE SCREENING OF VARIOUS POPULATION GROUPS FOR TOCOPHEROLS, VITAMIN A AND LIPIDS IN PLASMA AND FOR DEGREE OF IN VITRO RED CELL HEMOLYSIS. CONCURRENTLY, IDENTIFICATION OF FOOD SOURCES OF VITAMIN E WOULD BE MADE AND THE INTAKES OF VITAMIN E AND FATTY ACIDS IN THE POPULATION GROUPS ESTIMATED. SUBSEQUENTLY, A CONTROLLED STUDY OF THE EFFECT OF VITAMIN E SUPPLEMENTATION ON PLASMA VITAMIN A LEVELS MIGHT BE INDICATED. EFFORT WOULD BE MADE TO IDENTIFY THE BEST SOURCES OF VITAMIN E IN INDIAN FOODS IN EVENT IT APPEARS DESIRABLE TO IMPROVE INTAKE OF THIS VITAMIN BY SPECIFIC POPULATION GROUPS.

5. EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO ASK GOPALAN ABOUT (1) EXTENT OF HIS CURRENT INTEREST IN PROPOSAL; (2) LIKELIHOOD OF GOI AUTHORIZING COLLABORATION; AND (3) MEASURES NIH SHOULD TAKE TO ASSURE FORMAL CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSED STUDY. KISSINGER

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